AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE(tm) REPORT #1262 - OCT. 19, 2001

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1262 with a release date of
Friday, October 19th, 2001 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T.

The International Amateur Radio Union speaks out on Morse and the ham radio community responds. This story is first on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1262 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

INTERNATIONAL: IARU MEETS - MORSE ON ITS WAY OUT

The International Amateur Radio Union meets to discuss the future of our worldwide hobby service including the Morse code. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, reports from Nottingham in the U-K:

--

The Administrative Council of the International Amateur Radio Union met between the 6th and 8th of October in Guatemala City. The principal business was to continue preparations for WRC-2003, which has several items of importance to the amateur services on its agenda.

Items discussed he harmonization of amateur and broadcasting allocations near 7 MHz; adequacy of HF broadcasting allocations below 10 MHz; possible revision of Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations; changes to terms and definitions in Article S1 as a result of amendments to Article S25; review of provisions concerning the formation of amateur callsigns in Article S19; additional allocations for 'Little LEO' satellites; study of a possible allocation to the earth exploration-satellite service for synthetic aperture radar near 435 MHz; and possible identification of globally harmonized frequency bands for use by agencies and organizations dealing with public protection and disaster relief. The IARU objectives with regard to these agenda items were affirmed.

The IARU Council adopted a resolution urging member societies to seek, as an interim measure, Morse code testing speeds not exceeding five words per minute. The IARU Council, setting aside previous decisions, resolved that IARU policy is to support the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz.

Jeramy Boot, G4NJH.

--

The next scheduled meeting of the IARU Council will be in September of 2002, immediately prior to the Region 1 Conference in San Marino. (RSGB)

**

CW: HAMS REACT TO IARU DECISION ON MORSE

The IARU policy decision to support the removal of Morse code testing as an international requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz is again sparking a hot debate. This, between those who favor retaining mandatory Morse testing and others who want to see an end to CW as a requirement to operate the high frequency bands. There is really nothing new in the arguments on either side. Amateur Radio Newsline's David Black, KB4KCH, has more:

--

Morse code. Most hams love it or hate it.

CW, as it's also known, was developed for land based telegraphy in the early 1800's by Samuel F.B. Morse. Morse code and ham radio have gone hand in hand ever since. But now, CW as a requirement for a ham license may be going away.

The International Amateur Radio Union Administrative Council has taken the first steps. Less than two weeks ago, the group voted to set aside any previous decisions and support removing Morse code testing as an ITU requirement for hams to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz. In effect, that move seems to suggest there's little chance that the IARU will support keeping Morse testing as a requirement for getting a ham radio license.

Long time CW operator Jerry Womble, WA4QIN, of Steele, Alabama, says losing code as a license requirement would not be good for the amateur radio service.

--

Jerry Womble, WA4QIN: "If you remove code from the process of getting' a ham license I think you dilute the talents in the community, and I think it means a little less to the person who actually gets the license that he did not go through a process that most of us have gone through to obtain our license"
--

But that view is not universal.

--
Jim Baker, N4RVH: "It wouldn't bother me if they did remove it"
--

Birmingham resident Jim Baker, N4RVH, says ham radio would continue just fine without Morse code as a license requirement.

--
Jim Baker, N4RVH: "Radio is gonna to continue and its gonna progress beyond that. With what the technology is getting into now it is going to far surpass what the code started out to do and that's to communicate."
--

These people are the middle grounders. They welcome an open exchange of viewpoints but they also know that they must accept the judgment of the service's political leaders and the world body of telecommunications regulators.

One side or the other will lose, but both sides will eventually have to live

with whatever the final ITU decision on Morse code testing turns out to be.

From Birmingham Alabama, I'm David Black, KB4KCH, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

The bottom line. Regardless what's decided at the next World Radiocommunications conference, not everyone in ham radio is going to be happy. (ARNewsline™)

**

CHANCE FOR A RARE CONTACT: GHANA COMING TO 6 METERS

Its considered one of the rarest of the rare countries on VHF, but now Ghana is coming to 6 meters. This with word that a group of DXers will be operating from the city of Elmina from Friday, October 26th through 1700 UTC on Sunday, November 4th.

Arliss Thompson, W7XU, Richard Hanson, K5A-D and Ed Gray, W0SD are the expedition leaders. Thompson says that the group plans on using the call sign 9G5SIX. And while they will have the capability of operation on 160 through 10 meters they will concentrate mainly on operating the 50 MHz band both C-W and SSB.

As to gear, Thompson says that the station dedicated to 6 meter operation includes a pair of Yaesu FT-100D transceivers, a 3CX800 amplifier and a 7 element yagi on a 27 foot boom. A Icom IC-706 transceiver and loop antenna will be dedicated to monitoring 28.885 MHz on 10 meters. This is the internationally recognized frequency used by 50 MHz operators to plan 6 meter D-X contacts.

And to let everyone know if the signal from Ghana is on the air, Thompson says that they will establish a beacon on 50.106 MHz. If you hear it, there is a better than even chance you can tune up the band and make contact directly with the D-X pedition itself.

As to the High Frequency bands, Thompson says they will use a Yaesu FT-746 with Acom kilowatt amplifier feeding wire, vertical and loop antennas for 160 through 10 meters. That station will be primarily manned by W0SD. QSL information will be released at a later date.

We will have more D-X related information at the end of this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (VHF Reflector)

**

BREAK 1

This is ham radio news coming to you from the United States of America. We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world, including the Reading Amateur Radio Club's W3BN Repeater serving Reading Pennsylvania.

(5 sec pause here)

**

AMERICA FIGHTS BACK: A NEW EAS STRUCTURE

As reported last week, the Emergency Alert System or EAS was not activated before or during the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Instead, President Bush chose to use the commercial media as a way of informing the public. And shortly after the attacks the FCC suspended the need for regular tests of the EAS system for a short period of time, presumably so as not to cause panic in the general public that another attack was taking place.

Does this mean that the EAS need restructuring or modification? Richard Rudman, W6TIA, is the chairman of the Emergency Alert System National Advisory Committee. He says that its time to look at future technology and how it can be incorporated into the E-A-S system to better serve the American public.

--
Richard Rudman W6TIA: “Where I really hope we can take this is to look at something that my national advisory committee already is studying under the heading of Advanced Warning Systems. Amateur Radio operators are already familiar with them because we have been doing this for years. We have a lot of advanced warning systems.”

“We need to look at the capabilities of technology are, what people are going to have for personal communications devices in the future and come up with some intelligent ways to allow people to program their devices so that they can get alerts to the hazards they want to be notified about, in some cases 24 hours a day, 7 days a week wherever they are.”
--

From Rudman’s comments it appears as if the concepts developed by ham radio operators along with overall advancements in personal communications technology could play a role in the future of the Emergency Alert System. Translated into everyday language, it means saving lives. (ARNewsline™)

**

AMERICA FIGHTS BACK: BAYGEN RADIOS DROPPED ON AFGHANISTAN

Radio has become an important tool in the United States military campaign in Afghanistan. In addition to its on tactical communications, the United States air dropping wind up radios to the Afghan public. Amateur Radio Newsline’s Bruce Tennant, K6PZW has the details:

--
For more than two weeks the United States and its coalition allies have not only been dropping bombs and food ration packs into Afghanistan. They have also been air dropping a new secret weapon in their war on terrorism. The world famous Bay-Gen wind-up radio.

According to the British Broadcasting Company on-line service, Americans forces have reportedly also been air-dropping hundreds of the small Bay-Gen Freeplay wind-up radios into Afghanistan as the first step in what promises to be a

battle for the hearts and minds of the Afghan people. The radios are thought to be specially designed fixed-frequency models that will automatically tune to information broadcasts issued by the United States military.

The BBC says that Washington is relying on the work of its renowned Commando Solo broadcasting unit to reach Afghans over the airwaves. The six EC-130 planes that make up the Air National Guard's Commando Solo fleet serve as flying radio stations. The unit has a record of operating in U-S conflicts such as those in Panama, Bosnia and Haiti. And in addition to the efforts by the U-S military to air-drop radios, relief agencies are also working to supply commercial wind-up models to refugees, many of whom have fled their homes because of severe food shortages in Afghanistan.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I’m Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

The BBC on-line article says that the wind-up radios will be used to publicize food drops and the message that "the people of Afghanistan are not the enemy." The article also quotes journalist Nick Grace, of the website Clandestineradio.com who believes the Commando Solo unit is also involved in jamming the Taleban-run station Voice of Shari'ah. (BBC)

**

HAM RADIO AND THE WAR: TERRORIST ATTACKS CAUSE 2 METER BEACON DELAY

The terrorist attacks in New York City and the Pentagon caused a new ham radio beacon to be delayed. This, according to Tim Marek, K7XC, who was getting ready to put one on 144.288 MHz from Northern Nevada when the attacks on the East coast occurred.

Marek is a Radar Tech on the Naval Electronic Warfare Range in Nevada and he says service to the nation came first. In a posting to the VHF Reflector, Marek says the Navy compressed a four week pilot training event into two weeks. As a result he wound up working 18 straight days of 12 hour or longer shifts helping to train US pilots for their missions.

This task completed, Marek, has finished assembling the new beacon and has K7XC slash B running 10 watts into a Ringo Ranger from his home in grid DMZ09. He hopes to find a mountaintop location and a horizontal antenna for it in the near future. A 432 MHz beacon at the same location is in the works as well. (VHF Reflector)

**

HAM RADIO AND THE WAR: HEALTH CONCERNS CAUSE CQ TO ASK CONTESTERS TO E-MAIL LOGS

This is Rich Moseson, W2VU, Editor of CQ magazine, with a message for anyone planning to participate in next weekend’s CQ World Wide DX Contest, or any other CQ-sponsored contest.

Because of security concerns, we are asking everyone who submits a log for our contests to do so by e-mail. The rules for each contest give you the appropriate e-mail address. Logs received through the mail at the CQ offices

will be held unopened until all potential health risks have been evaluated. We cannot guarantee that these logs will ever be opened.

We know this will inconvenience a small number of participants in our contests and we regret the need to make this request. But our logs come from all over the world, and even from Trenton, New Jersey. And while the risk that amateurs might be involved in any sort of terrorist activity is very small, mail en route may be subject to tampering. We cannot ask our staff members or contest committee volunteers to possibly expose themselves to dangerous packages sent through the mail when there is an alternative.

We've already received several e-mail messages critical of this request, suggesting that we are giving in to terrorists. We don't see it that way. We are not canceling the contest. But we are taking reasonable precautions to protect our staff from what is, based on this week's news, a very real and fast-growing threat. (CQ Magazine, W2VU)

**

ENFORCEMENT: PART 15 VS HAM RADIO

Interference to a Washington state two meter repeater has been traced to a legal albeit faulty Part 15 device. The Portland, Oregon FCC office recently investigated interference to the Clark County Amateur Radio Club repeater in Vancouver operating on 147.84 MHz. The interference was traced to a Gemini model V C 2000 Part 15 video transmitter located about one mile away. The owner was contacted and voluntarily removed the device from service. Interference gone. Case closed. (Portland SBE Bulletin)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: SATELLITE RADIO VS. RF LIGHTING

A major battle has developed between the deliverers of satellite radio and a company that will soon manufacture R-F lighting. This, as XM Satellite Radio and Sirius Satellite Radio ask the FCC to reduce the level of allowed emissions from a particular new model of outdoor light bulb to reduce potential interference to satellite delivered radio signals.

The trade publication Radio World reports that Sirius and XM have specifically asked the FCC to require that Fusion Lighting lower the bulbs radio frequency emission levels y 99.9% of current levels. According to Radio World, Fusion's R-F lamps are designed to operate in an unlicensed portion of the microwave spectrum. Unfortunately, the lamps hold the possibility of interfere with S-band communications channels used by satellite services.

But Fusion says that granting the request would be undue overegulation and effectively put the company out of business. They say that the microwave powered lamps are still in development and at least a year from commercial sale.

Reportedly, the FCC has already spent several months trying to resolve the dispute. So far, no resolution. (Radio World)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: PAY TO LISTEN TO OLD ART BELL RADIO SHOWS

If you are a fan of Art Bell, W6OBB's, "Coast to Coast A-M" radio program and you miss tuning in one night, its going to cost you money to hear a repeat of the show on the world wide web. This, after Premiere Radio Networks announces that as of Monday October 15th there will be a fee to access old shows.

According to the Premiere announcement the longtime free audio streaming has disappeared and has been replaced with a new $6.95 a month subscription service called Art Bell's StreamLink. With StreamLink you can listen anytime you like to any Art Bell Show from the last 30 days.

Not everyone is happy with the decision to charge including Bell. According to a posting to his website, it was not his decision to change the free Internet access. Rather it was a decision made by Premiere based on cost.

Bell says that there are now millions of people on the Internet and bandwidth costs money. About $1.5 million per year for all the Premiere shows. He says that Premiere hopes to break even.

W6OBB says that he has been receiving many angry e-mails and that he understands the anger at having to pay for what was free. But he also understands the company cannot continue to cover the ever growing cost.

Bell adds there is at least one bright spot. Says W6OBB, "it is still free on the Radio."

More information is on the web at www.artbell.com. (Art Bell Website)

**

SPECIAL EVENTS: JOTA 2001 AND THE ISS

If you are hearing this newscast between 0001 local time on Saturday, October 20th, and 2359 local time on Sunday, October 21st, then as soon as its over get on the air to contact the Boy Scouts Jamboree On The Air 2001. Several hundred thousand Scouts and Scout Leaders and others are expected to be on around the world for this annual event.

Listen for scouts on 3.740 and 3.940 on 75 meters, 7.270 on 40, 14.290 on 20, 21.360 on 15, 28.390 MHz on 10 plus the WARC bands.

And as a special added attraction, International Space Station Commander Frank Culbertson, KD5OPQ has said that he will try to make some general QSO's for the scouting Jamboree. He will operate on the usual ham radio space to ground frequencies. Because of Culbertson's limited time on the air, non-scouting stations are being asked to give preference to scouts trying for a contact with KD5OPQ on board the ISS. (Q-News, SAREX Remailer, K6DUE, KC6ROL)

**

BREAK 2

From the United States of America, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline, with links to the world from our only official website - www.arnewsline.org.

(5 sec pause here)

**

OUR HERITAGE: RADIO PIONEER DONALD HINGS

Tom Farley, KD6NSP writing in the CGC Communicator notes that he is always trying to publicize radio pioneers that have not been written about. One of these is Donald Hings whom Farley describes as a Canadian wireless inventor who came up with an early form of the walkie talkie and played a big role in the Canadian and British war effort.

Unrecognized compared to people like the late Al Gross, Hings was recently presented with the Order of Canada by her Excellency, the Right Honorable Adrienne Clarkson, the Governor General of British Columbia.

His granddaughter has built a nice web site to honor his radio accomplishments. Its at http://sitka.triumf.ca/morgan/dlhings. (CGC Communicator)

**

OUR HERITAGE: THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN RADIO MUSEUM

According to an Internet posting by John Travis, W4QCF, if you like old radios, there is a new museum just for you. Called the Southern Appalachian Radio Museum, its located in Ashville North Carolina and is described as a dream come true for many years for members of the Quarter Century Wireless Association Smoky Mountain Chapter 145. The sponsoring group also recently received the club call W4AFM, which once belonged to Bill Hayes who was licensed in 1926. You can get a glimpse at what's there by visiting the museum website at www.saradiomuseum.org. The real world museum is open every Wednesday evening and John Travis says that you are invited to come and see it. (W4QCF)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: W6VQP NAMED FELLOW IN THE RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA

The Radio Club of America has announced its list of names to be inducted as Fellows in the organization. Among them is one well known to anyone who remembers the very early days of our news reporting operation.

One of the 20 inductees for the year 2001 is Radio Design Group president James R. Hendershot. Ham radio oprerators better know him as Jim Hendershot WA6VQP, the founder of the Westlink Radio Network. Westlink Radio was the original name of the Amateur Radio Newsline when we first went on the air way back in 1977. (ARNewsline™)

**

INTERNATIONAL - IRELAND: NEW TELEPHONE TECHNOLOGY COULD CAUSE RFI

New high speed telephone technology in Ireland has been announced by their regulatory agency Eircom. The new system will provide Internet access using ADSL brand named 'I stream' using existing phone lines with subcarriers in the

range 100 kHz to 1.1 MHz. This will allow faster speed downloading from the Internet and allow for existing voice calls to be carried on the same phone lines in the range 0 to 4 kHz.

But there is a downside. A large number of reports from United Kingdom trials show that radio receivers placed near the phone lines will have strong interference in the Long Wave and Medium Wave bands. There also may be interference in the High Frequency bands. And the system may be susceptible to interference from High Frequency transmitters as well. More details are available at www.eircom.ie. (IRTS, Q-News)

**

DX

In DX, C98RF in Mozambique has been really active on 30, 12 and 10 meters. Watch 12 meters from 1100-1730 UTC, 30 meters after 2100 UTC and 10 meters very early after 0900 UTC. QSL via DL6DQW. (OPDX)

And ET3VSC in Etheopia has been pleasing many CW operators over the past week with activity on 12 and 10 meters. Look for him between 1830 to 2130 UTC on either band. QSL via K3IRV. (OPDX)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: WHO REALLY WAS SAMUEL FB MORSE

And finally, we started this weeks newscast with reference to the Morse Code. There is no need to tell anyone that the Morse code is synonymous with ham radio. For almost a hundred years the “code” has been such an integral part of the Amateur Radio service that for some in the hobby its a way of life. To others it was a dreaded obstacle to upgrading to a higher license class until restructuring capped the test speed at 5 words per minute. Yet without the code there might never have been ham radio because its use preceded voice transmission by many years. Even so, there are probably very few in the hobby who know much about the man behind the dots and dashes. But as Amateur Radio Newsline’s Henry Feinberg K2SSQ tells us, the code is only a small part of the story of the man:

--

Samuel Finley Breese Morse was not a ham radio operator. In fact, radio was more than a century away when he was born on April 27, 1791, in Charlestown, Massachusetts.

His childhood is described as almost mundane. He was the son of Jedidiah Morse, a church pastor who was as well known for his abilities in geography. A close family friend was Noah Webster who was equally known for his dictionaries.

Morse attended college at Yale where he is described as having been an indifferent student. But his interest was aroused by lectures of the then newly-developing subject of electricity. After college, to the his parents dismay, Morse directed his enthusiasm to painting which he studied in England. After settling in New York City in 1825, he became one of the most respected

painters of his time.

In 1832, while returning by ship from another period of art study in Europe, Morse heard a conversation about the newly discovered electromagnet and conceived of the idea of an electric telegraph. By 1835 he probably had his first working model in the New York University building where he taught art. Being poor, Morse used such crude materials as an old artist's canvas stretcher to hold it, a home-made battery and an old clock-work to move the paper on which dots and dashes were to be recorded.

In 1837 Morse acquired two partners to help him develop his telegraph. One was Leonard Gale, a quiet professor of science at New York University and Alfred Vail, a young man who made available both his mechanical skills and his family's New Jersey iron works to help construct better telegraph models. With the aid of his new partners, Morse applied for a patent for his new telegraph in 1837, which he described as including a dot and dash code to represent numbers, a dictionary to turn the numbers into words and a set of sawtooth type for sending signals.

By 1838, at an exhibition of his telegraph in New York, Morse transmitted ten words per minute. He had dispensed with his number-word dictionary, using instead the dot-dash code directly for letters. Though changes in detail were to be made later, the Morse code that was to become standard throughout the world had essentially come into being.

During the next few years Morse exhibited his telegraph before savants, businessmen and committees of Congress, hoping to find the funds to give his telegraph a large-scale test. He met considerable skepticism that any message could really be sent from city to city over wire. On his own, in 1843, without significant help from his discouraged partners, Morse finally secured funds from Congress to construct the first telegraph line in the U. S. from Baltimore to Washington D.C. Morse directed the wires to be mounted on poles and by May 1844, the first inter-city electromagnetic telegraph line in the world was ready. Then, from the Capitol building in Washington, Morse sent a Biblical quotation as the first formal message on the line to Baltimore These were four words that changed the world of telecommunications forever. The four simple words: "What Hath God Wrought!" And trhe rest -- as they say -- is history.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I’m Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ.

--

By the way, some of the information in this story came from the Locust Grove Samuel Morse historical site at www.morsehistoricsite.org. If you want to learn more about the man and his contributions to society, we say its well worth a visit. Its one of the best. (Various Morse related websites)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, Amateur News Weekly, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB and Australia's Q-News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More

information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that Amateur Radio Newsline scripts are now available weekly on a self maintained list at Yahoogroups. To have a free text edition of this newscast delivered each week by e-mail go to www.yahoogroups.com, follow the directions and sign up for the ARNewsline list.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm _____ saying God Bless America, 73, and we thank you for listening." Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) is Copyright 2001. All rights reserved.